Cuba Foments Latin Unrest, CIA Says

Associated Press

A Central Intelligence Agency report says that the Castro regime in Cuba has set up a "highly professional espionage and subversion agency" and has spent well over $1 million fomenting trouble in Latin America.

The CIA statement was included in testimony published on Wednesday by a House Latin American Affairs subcommittee investigating communism in Latin America.

The CIA said reports from confidential sources as well as public statements by Cuban officials recently "leave no doubt that 'export of the revolution' continues to be a key policy of the Castro regime, despite important Communist reverses in the area such as in Brazil, Chile and British Guiana last year."

Agency Identified

It identified the Cuban espionage and subversion agency as the General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI), "one of whose main tasks is the support of revolutionaries in Latin America."

The CIA statement added: "A defector has recently provided information on DGI payments made during 1963, the year of his employment with the DGI. About $250,000 was given to Guatemalan revolutionary groups. Some $200,000 of this sum went to Marco Antonio Yon Sosa's group—the most militant terrorist outfit operating in the country. About $50,000 was given to revolutionary groups in El Salvador, and $30,000 to a pro-Castro political group in Panama.

"The DGI gave more than $1 million to Venezuelan guerrilla activists during the period 1960-64. The source also says that a long-time Cuban intelligence and police operative, Maj. Abelardo Colome, went to Venezuela in 1962 to direct operations and was still there as of April 1964.

Meeting in Havana

"The DGI is advised by at least five Soviet intelligence specialists," the CIA said. "Moreover, one of the purposes of the highly secret meeting of Latin American Communist leaders held in Havana last November was to give added impetus to more militant Communist activity in the hemisphere.

The document said Cuba is "reliably reported to be interested in a proposal to form a "Latin American guerrilla movement' to be coordinated in Havana and to include guerrilla groups from Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala. Uruguyan-based Leonel Brizola, the extremist brother-in-law of former Brazilian President Goulart, is also reported to be setting up a guerrilla warfare coordinating committee in Montevideo to facilitate the flow of Brazilian trainees and money to and from Cuba."